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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,599	06/12/2000	Dongyan Wang	SAM1.0064	7070

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, MYLINH T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2179	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/592,599	WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mylinh Tran	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 May 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,8-15,17-25,27 and 28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6, 8-15, 17-25, 27 and 28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/18/06
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/18/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-12, 15, 17-22, 25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yang (US 6,133,847).

As per independent claims 1, 10 and 20, Yang teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding system for providing a user interface for controlling devices that are currently connected to a network comprising the steps/means:

for at least one of said devices:

obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, wherein each device includes device information and user control interface description for user interaction with that device (col. 8, lines 10-14);

generating a top page user interface description based at least on the obtained information (col. 8, lines 14-17), the user interface description including a reference associated with the device information and user control interface description in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each reference in the top page user interface description includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said information and user control interface description contained in said devices currently connected to the network (col. 8, lines 17-24).

when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated, using the activated link to access the control interface description contained in the corresponding device to generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device (col. 8, lines 17-24).

As per claims 2, 11 and 21, Yang teaches the link comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the information in a corresponding device (col. 8, lines 17-24).

As per claims 3, 12 and 22, Yang teaches the steps of generating the top page the user interface description such that the user interface description further

includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device (col. 8, lines 10-14).

As per claims 6, 15 and 25, Yang teaches the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device (col. 5, lines 41-46).

As per claims 8, 17 and 27, Yang teaches the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that each link in the top page user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device (col. 2, lines 27-33 and col. 8, lines 17-24).

As per claims 9, 18 and 28, Yang teaches the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing an electronic link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the link in the top page is user activated the activated link is used to retrieve control interface description contained in the corresponding device to generate and display a device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interraction with that corresponding device (col. 2, lines 27-33 and col. 8, lines 17-24).

As per claim 19, which is dependent on claim 10, Yang teaches means for generating at least one top page user interface by: using each link in the top page user interface description to access the device information in each corresponding device, and generating the top page user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device (col. 2, lines 27-33, col. 8, lines 10-14 and lines 17-24).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang (US #6,466,233).

As per claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23 and 24, Yang does not disclose generating the top page user interface description further includes the steps of associating a hyper-text link with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in a corresponding device and the information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device. Examiner takes Official Notice that using hyper-text link HTML technology to implement top page graphical user

interface and applying HTML link to link a selected device icon to another HTML page to display further functional control panel for controlling that particular device would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include hyper-text link HTML pages define sets of user interface functions for multiple devices, connected to a network, that enable user interaction and control of those devices in Yang's method since hyper-text link HTML pages would allow the devices to be remotely controlled from the Internet via HTTP protocol.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 08/01/2005 and 09/28/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the following:

(a) Yang does not disclose generating a top page user interface description based at least on the obtained information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network.

(b) Yang does not disclose the top page user interface description includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to at least the user control interface description contained in each corresponding device, for user interaction with that device, currently connected to the network.

(c) Yang does not disclose when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated, the control interface description in the corresponding device is accessed using the activated link to obtain device information and generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device.

(d) With respect to rejection of claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, Yang does not disclose links for direct access to control programs in appliances. As such, there is no reason or motivation to include hyper-text links in Yang.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

(a) The system does obtains information from one or more devices currently connected to the network according to Yang's teaching at column 8, lines 10 to 14, in which "the remote control device could receive an interface control signal from each of the appliances on the network or in the room". And based on the obtained information, the system generates a top page user interface description including a separate icon for each appliance that is available to be controlled (col. 8, lines 14-17).

The system does obtains information from one or more devices currently connected to the network according to Yang's teaching at column 8, lines 10 to 14, in which "the remote control device could receive an interface control signal from each of the appliances on the network or in the room". And based on the obtained information, the system generates a user interface description including a separate

icon for each appliance that is available to be controlled (col. 8, lines 14-17). The user interface (140) of the hand-held device (100) is a function control panel providing information to the user related to utilizing the remote control device to control a particular appliance (or multiple devices). The hand-held device provides icons to be displayed on the user interface, and each icon represents one single device. The selection of the icon would provide a control signal to the functions interface and the functions interface would then access the control software for that appliance from memory and configure the user interface function control panel so that it would be configured to control the applicant selected. Therefore, Yang discloses "the user interface including at least one reference associated with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network". Yang discloses references (icons) to access the control software for that appliance from memory. Yang still teaches the function interface accesses the control software of each appliance event through its memory. It is clearly that in Yang, the remote 100 accesses the remote to control the appliance.

(b) According to Yang, the remote control, that uses to control the controlled devices currently connected to the network, does not contain the user control interface description of each corresponding controlled device. The user control interface description of each corresponding controlled device, that allows user interaction with that device, is contained within the corresponding controlled device and is download to the remote control device and stores in the memory (e.g., col. 4, lines 32-38). The top page user interface description (as explained in item (a)

above) does include at least one electronic link (the user would ***select the icon that represents the particular appliance***; col. 8, lines 18-19) providing direct access from the top page user interface description to at least the user control interface description contained in each corresponding device, which has been downloaded to the memory of the remote control (***the selection of the icon*** would provide a control signal to the function interface and the functions interface would ***then access the control software for that appliance from memory so that it would be configured to control the appliance selected***; col. 8, lines 19-24). It is also further notice that selection on the icon, represents the particular appliance, that leads to accessing the control software for that appliance from memory is, in fact, "electronic link".

(c) Yang does teach when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated (e.g., the user would ***select the icon that represents the particular appliance***; col. 8, lines 18-19), the control interface description in the corresponding device is accessed using the activated link to obtain device information and generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device (***the selection of the icon*** would provide a control signal to the function interface and the functions interface would ***then access the control software for that appliance from memory so that it would be configured to control the appliance selected***; col. 8, lines 19-24).

(d) Yang does teach Yang links for direct access to control programs in appliances as explained in (b) and (c) above. Since using HTML technology to

implement top page graphical user interface, that includes tope level icons representing controlled appliances, and applying HTML link to link a selected device icon to another HTML page to display further functional control panel for controlling that particular device would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include hyper-text link HTML pages define sets of user interface functions for multiple devices, connected to a network, that enable user interaction and control of those devices in Yang's method since hyper-text link HTML pages would allow the devices to be remotely controlled from the Internet via HTTP protocol.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

Art Unit 2179

WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER